



Jobs In The Woods Watershed Restoration Program

The Jobs In The Woods Watershed Restoration Program (JITW) has two main purposes: to provide funds for voluntary watershed restoration projects on non-Federal lands, and to provide employment and economic opportunities in natural resource dependent communities within western Oregon, Washington and northern California (see map).



Northwest Forest Plan area.

Why do we need to restore watersheds?

Many of the watersheds in the Pacific Northwest are in poor condition because of past land-use practices. Communities and landowners are experiencing water quality problems, limited water supply, and flooding issues. What's more, these watersheds are less able to support diverse native fish and wildlife communities; for example, the numbers of bull trout, northern spotted owl, and several salmon species have declined so much that they are now listed under the Endangered Species Act. In response, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service believes that watershed health and the decline of species can best be addressed by participating in local, cooperative partnerships focused on watershed restoration.



The Service restores watersheds to ensure native species (like chinook salmon) persist into the future.

What are the strengths of the Jobs In The Woods Watershed Restoration Program?

Two components are central to the JITW Watershed Restoration Program. First, the program focuses on working with locally coordinated efforts for watershed restoration and species recovery. These efforts are based on assessments that encompass the whole watershed, which helps to focus projects on treating problems at their source and

encourages restoration of the larger watershed area. Second, the JITW Watershed Restoration Program is committed to providing economic opportunities in rural communities, opportunities that support the local economy. Projects funded by the JITW Watershed Restoration Program employ local contractors and workers to implement watershed restoration projects. In addition, project workers receive training in state-of-the-art watershed restoration techniques that enhance and diversify their skills.



Service biologist trains a local restoration work crew to install culverts that maintain fish passage.

How do the cooperative partnerships work?

The Jobs In the Woods Watershed Restoration Program provides funding to non-Federal landowners, watershed stakeholders, and community groups, so that they can participate in voluntary, cooperative partnerships. Projects funded by the JITW Watershed Restoration Program are identified, selected, implemented, and monitored through these partnerships, with JITW generally funding 25-75% of the total project costs. The non-Federal landowners and other partners must contribute matching funds or in kind services (e.g., labor, materials, and equipment) to cover the remaining project costs. Jobs In The Woods partnerships have included individual

private landowners, corporate landowners, watershed councils, resource conservation districts, non-profit organizations, Native American tribes as well as local and State agencies and other Federal agencies.



Media coverage of a restoration project promoting partnerships and public outreach.

What is being accomplished?

The Jobs In The Woods Watershed Restoration Program has become a cornerstone and catalyst for voluntary watershed restoration on non-Federal lands in rural communities in the Pacific Northwest. An example project (see below) illustrates the kinds of accomplishments made possible through these cooperative efforts. These projects are contributing to healthy watersheds that meet the needs of people, fish, wildlife, and plants as well as contributing to species-recovery efforts across the Northwest.

How do I find out more about the Jobs In The Woods Watershed Restoration Program in my area?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices in western Washington, Oregon, and northern California have customized their programs to better serve local communities and partners and to meet local resource needs. Our offices in Washington (360-753-9440), Oregon (503-231-6179), Northern California (707 822-7201), and the Region 1 Office (503-872-2826) can provide more specific information on past and current projects as well as information about how to apply for JITW Watershed Restoration Program funding.

Information is also available at:

- California JITW program:
<http://arcata.fws.gov/jitw>
- Oregon JITW program:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/jobs/orojitw>
- Washington JITW program:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/jobs/wwojitw>
- Regional JITW program:
<http://pacific.fws.gov/jobs>

Project Example:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, and private landowners joined together to complete a large woody debris placement project in the Alsea and Siuslaw watersheds in Lane County, Oregon. Watershed assessments indicated that area streams had lost many of their natural fish habitat features such as large pools, overhead cover, and large woody debris. A Chinook helicopter placed approximately 850 whole conifer trees along 25 miles of remote fish-bearing streams on both Federal and non-Federal lands. The JITW program provided technical assistance, funding for local workers and contractors amounting to about 15% (\$97,000) of the total project cost (\$632,000). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and local watershed groups are monitoring the



Helicopter brings large woody debris (LWD) to a stream to improve habitat complexity.

effectiveness of the tree placements in improving stream features for salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and other wildlife species. Since 1995, the JITW program has contributed over \$534,000 to accomplish large-scale restoration in the Siuslaw and Alsea watersheds.



Large woody debris placement improves habitat complexity.